

## Message Text

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64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 181615Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7158

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6457

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJ: USG VOTE ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN UNGA PLENARY

REF: STATE WH42795

1. OWING TO TOREE CONSECUTIVE TUNISIAN HOLIDAYS, I WAS  
UNABLE TO MAKE REQUESTED DEMARCHE UNTIL TODAY, OCTOBER 18.  
I DID SO TO NEWLY-APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE MONGI KOOLI.

2. IN EXPLAINING USG VOTE AGAINST INVITING PLO PARTICIPATION  
IN PLENARY DEBATE, I DREW HEAVILY ON REFTEL AND LEFT AIDE  
MEMOIRE. EMPHASIZED PARTICULARLY POINTS THAT VOTE IN NO  
SENSE INDICATED USG OPPOSITION TO PALESTINIANS OR THEIR  
LEGITIMATE INTERESTS, AND THAT A PRIMARY USG CONCERN WAS TO  
MAINTAIN ITS OWN CAPABILITY AS PROMOTER OF PROGRESS TOWARD  
P

E#IN MIDDLE EAST. I SAID THAT WE WANTED TO BE VERY  
SURE THERE IS NO TUNISIAN MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION,  
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO  
COUNTRIES.

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3. KOOLI EXPRESSED VIEW THAT RECOGNITION OBTAINED BY PLO AT UNGA REPRESENTED A POSITIVE STEP. NO PEACE SETTLEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT PALESTINIANS, AND IT TIME THEY WERE BROUGHT INTO THE ACT. WHILE HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD REASONS FOR U.S. VOTE, OVERWHELMING ARAB POSITION IS THAT PLO REPRESENTS PALESTINIANS AND SHOULD ACT IN THEIR BEHALF.

4. I SAID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, WHATEVER ONE THINKS ABOUT PLO AND PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION, REALISTICALLY ONLY WAY TO INDUCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK IS THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN. IN CASE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, KING HUSSEIN HAS UNDERTAKEN TO GIVE WEST BANK PALESTINIANS SEVERAL OPTIONS, INCLUDING SELF-RULE. BUT TO EXPECT ISRAEL TO AGREE TO NEGOTIATE WITH PLO, AT LEAST AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IS UNREALISTIC. PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, IT WOULD SEEM THAT NEXT STEP IN PEACE EFFORT -- INSOFAR AS IT CONCERNS PALESTINIANS -- MUST BE THROUGH JORDAN. IT IS ONLY USG THAT HAS REAL POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN BRINGING ABOUT PEACE SETTLEMENT AND OUR BEST JUDGMENT IS THAT WAY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PALESTINIANS INTERESTS IS THROUGH NEGOTIATING PROCESS WITH EXISTING GOVERNMENTS. KOOLI ACCEPTED PROPOSITION RE INDISPENSABLE USG ROLE.

5. KOOLI DID NOT ACCEPT MY POINT THAT INVITING ENTITIES OTHER THAN SOVEREIGN STATES TO UNGA PLENARY IS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. HE ARGUED THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO EXCLUDE FROM THIS FORUM OPPRESSED PEOPLES FIGHTING COLONIAL RULE. HE WOULD NOT ADMIT POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT DISSIDENT ELEMENTS OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY MIGHT CLAIM STATUS AS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, AND USE UNGA TO ADVANCE THEIR CLAIM. IN PARTICULAR, HE FELT PALESTINIANS HAD A RIGHT TO BE HEARD AT UNGA BECAUSE OF 1947 RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED FOR

CREATION OF PALESTINE STATE. THEREFORE, HE THOUGHT THAT UNGA VOTE IN EFFECT CREATED A "GOOD" PRECEDENT.

6. AT CLOSE OF MEETING I SHOWED KOOLI CLIPPING FROM ARTICLE BY EDWARD SAAB IN LE MONDE (OCT. 13-14) QUOTING NABLUS "NOTALBE" AS SAYING AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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SAVES WHAT REMAINS OF PALESTINE IS BETTER THAN ASSUMING FOR THE SAKE OF ARAB PUBLIC OPINION A PLATONIC POSITION WHICH WILL OFFER ISRAEL A PRETEXT FOR DEFINITELY ANNEXING THE WEST BANK, JERUSALEM AND GAZA.

COMMENT: WHILE KOOLI PREDICTABLY NOT SWAYED FROM IDEA THAT STATUS AFFORDED PLO BY UNGA IS GOOD THING,

WE BELIEVE DEMARCHE WAS PROBABLY USEFUL AND TIMELY EXERCISE.  
IN SPITE OF ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR PLO, TUNISIAN IS FUNDA-  
MENTALLY MODERATE AND CONSISTENT ADVOCATE OF NEGOTIATED  
SETTLEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST. OUR REMINDER OF DELICACY OF THE  
PROCESS AND KEY ROLE OF USG MAY STRENGTHEN TUNISIAN INTEREST IN  
AVOIDING HARMFUL OUTCOME OF RABAT MEETINGS.  
SEELYE

NOTE BY OCT: TUNIS 6457 #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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